received from Ministries/Departments, the number of retired Govt. servants engaged as consultants in the last two years is 52.

(b) As per guidelines issued by the Department of Personnel and Training, Ministries/Deptts are competent to engage Consultants upto a period of six months keeping in view the requirements of work/specific jobs of a specialised nature. Evaluation of their performance is not required to be carried out centrally.

(c) The strength of retired Government servants engaged as Consultants by Ministries/Departments, as per information available, is generally within the prescribed limits. If engagement of Consultants beyond limits prescribed is envisaged, prior approval of Department of Personnel and Training is necessary. As such, there is no proposal to review the strength of consultants.

Cess on Crude Oil

656. SHRI KESHAB MAHANTA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) The amount of crude cess collected during each of the last three years;

(b) the contribution of Assam towards crude cess each year against which the amount of assistance provided by Oil Industry Development Board (OIDB) for the development of refineries in Assam;

(c) whether the Government propose to provide adequate funds for development of refineries in Assam through OIDB; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) The information is given in statement-I.

(b) The information is given in Statement-II.

(c) and (d) Government provides funds for development of refineries through OIDB and other means depending on several factors such as commercial viability of the project, availability of funds with OIDB as well as internal and extra-budgetary resources of the Companies. Accordingly, refineries in Assam may be provided funds depending upon the said factors.

Statement–I

Statement regarding Collection of Cess on Crude Oil

(Rs/Crores)

Year	Amount
1993-94	2160.89
1994-95	2548.97
1995-96	2800.63
Total	7510.49

Statement–II

*Contribution of Assam towards Crude Cess**

(Rs/Crores)

Year	Amount
1993-94	434.85
1994-95	431.62
1995-96	437.20

Statement regarding OIDB assistance to Refineries in Assam

(Rs/Crores)

Year	Amount
1993-94	50.00
1994-95	102.44
1995-96	251.49
Total	403.93

*The statement of collection of cess has been provided by the Office of Commissioner of Central Excise and Customs, Shillong.

Power Generation

657. SHRI SHANTILAL PARSOTAMDAS PATEL:
SHRI DINSHA PATEL:

Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Working Group on Power in Planning Commission had projected 57,000 M.W. of power generation during the Ninth Plan;

(b) if so, whether the projections of the Working Group has been accepted by the Government;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Planning Commission has agreed for generation of only 40,000 M.W. during the Plan;

(e) if so, the reasons for this massive curtailment; and

(f) the action proposed by the Government to meet the increasing demand of Power in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH). (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (f) The Working Group on Power for Ninth Plan set up by Planning Commission under the Chairmanship

of Secretary, Ministry of Power has submitted its report recently. Ninth Five Year Plan which is under finalisation, would take into account the recommendation of the Working Group depending upon the feasibility of the projects and economy level considerations.

Construction of Duplex Apartments

658. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken a decision to demolish certain "Lutyen's bungalows of preindependence and construct duplex apartments there;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the objective behind this move; and

(d) by when the work of demolition/construction is likely to start?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Does not arise in view of reply to (a) above.

Merger of PFC and IDFC

659. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to merge Power Finance Corporation (PFC) with the Infrastructure Development Finance Company (IDFC);

(b) if so, the advantages of merging these two financial institutions; and

(c) the steps taken in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) There is presently no proposal under consideration to merge the Power Finance Corporation (PFC) wth the Infrastructure Development Finance Company (IDFC).

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

[Translation]

Package Programme

660. SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the State which have been included in the Package Programme for carrying out development works;

(b) the nature of assistance extended to these States;

(c) the amount of assistance provided to the hilly regions like Kashmir and Eastern States as per the announcements made by the Hon. Prime Minister for providing crores of rupees to these States for the implementation of the schemes;

(d) the number of people provided assistance so far; and

(e) the details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) to (e) The Prime Minister has recently announced programmes/schemes/projects for the economic development of the Seven North Eastern States viz., Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura and the State of Jammu & Kashmir. The details of the New Initiatives announced for the North Eastern States are at Statement–I enclosed. As regards J & K, the Prime Minister had made announcements on the Floor of Parliament on 23rd July, 1996 and 2nd August, 1996. A further statement was made by the Prime Minister regarding J & K during his visit to Jammu on 14th February, 1997. A copy of the statement made on 14th February, 1997 is at Statement-II enclosed. The details of Central assistance for various projects/schemes etc. are contained in the above announcements. Since infrastructure projects have also been announced, the details regarding the number of prople assisted under such various programmes/ schemes cannot be easily estimated.

Statement–I

New Initiatives for North Eastern Region

My first visit to the Seven states of the North-East has come to an end. To me this has been a very moving experience. The warmth of the people here will bring me back. I came to the area to know the people their aspirations, their problems, how they feel and what they think. I came with an open mind. I am going back with pleasant memories and with a firm resolve to work with the people to mark a new beginning in the development of this region. Wherever I went, the people from different sections of the society came and met me in large numbers. They were friendly and frank in expressing their views, their desires, their apprehensions and their hopes. The warmth which they extended throughout my visit has really overwhelmed me.

I am fully convinced that the problems can be resolved if all of us work together and look ahead jointly towards a better future. I am thankful to the people for showing so much love and affection for me during the visit.

I have also met at each Capital, a cross-section of people like leaders of political parties, chiefs of autonomous

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Text of the Prime Minister Shri H.D. Devegowda's statement on new industries for North-Eastern Region at a Press conference at Gowahati on October 27, 1996.